AIM

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HARRIS FOR STATE ASSEMBLY

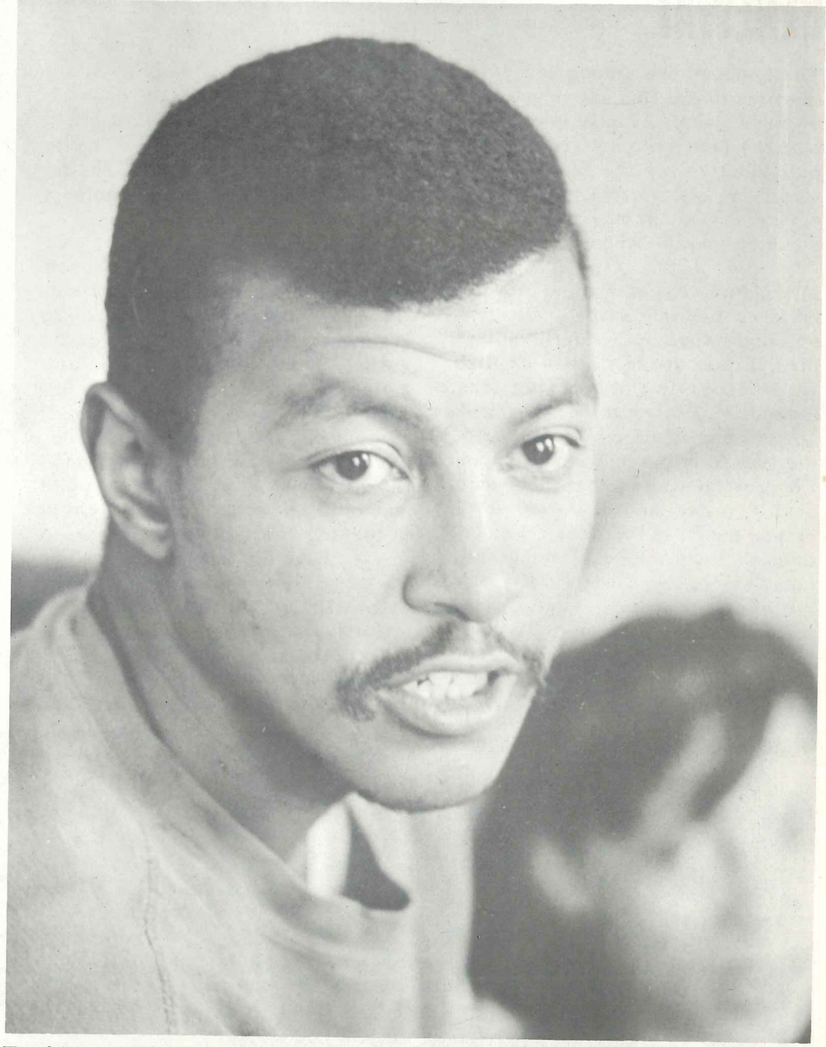
Fred Harris announces candidacy

With a stinging attack on Redevelopment, Fred Harris announced his candidacy for State Assembly in Connecticut's 106th District. The announcement was made Thursday night at an open rally attended by district residents and members of the press at the "Harris for State Assembly" campaign headquarters at the corner of Washington and Cedar.

HARRIS TO RUN ON AIM TICKET

Under the slogan of "A Community Run Community," Fred is running as a candidate of the newly formed American Independent Movement (AIM). He explained that as a Democrat or Republican candidate he would have no power to choose his own issues and speak out on them. Cordell Reagon, Fred's campaign manager, added that "the Republicans and Democrats have never come to the people to ask their ideas about the issues and problems of the community."

Fred Harris' campaign is not going to be a public relations campaign. Rather he vowed that he and his campaign workers would talk personally with every voter in the district. "Our platform is not final," he said, "as we continue talking to people, we will change it according to their ideas." (For the initial platform of the "Harris for State Assembly" campaign see the center insert.)



Fred Harris, AIM's candidate for the State Assembly in the 106th District. "The politicians who supposedly represent us in this city have proved that all they're after is power money and a big name for themselves."

AIM

Editorial Staff
John Sinisi
Elizabeth Berliner
The campaign publication of the Independent Political Action Committee will be published every two weeks. Letters to the editor are invited. Please keep them short and send them to
AIM Editor
IPAC
241 Orange Street
New Haven.
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THE LOPEZ FAMILY DISCUSSES URBAN RENEWAL

Joan Stone

The Lopezes are among several families in the Hill, introduced to me by Fred Harris. I have been meeting with the families as a group and individually over the past few months to get their ideas on what makes a good apartment, a good street, a good neighborhood.

Mrs. Maria Lopez and her seven children live on Cedar Street in a building owned by a slum landlord. Mrs. Lopez doesn't speak English very well, so two of her daughters, Inez and Lucidia, and her son-in-law Jose Colom acted as interpreters. In the course of our conversation, the Lopezes mentioned that they would prefer to live on a noisy street rather than a quiet street. I asked them why and they explained that a noisy street like Cedar was always full of people, either standing on the sidewalks or sitting on their porches or looking out the windows. Therefore you could walk down Cedar Street at almost any time of the day or night and feel safe. Whereas a quiet street, like Dagget, hardly ever had any people on it, and if you walked there, particularly at night, you always felt as if you were going to be jumped.

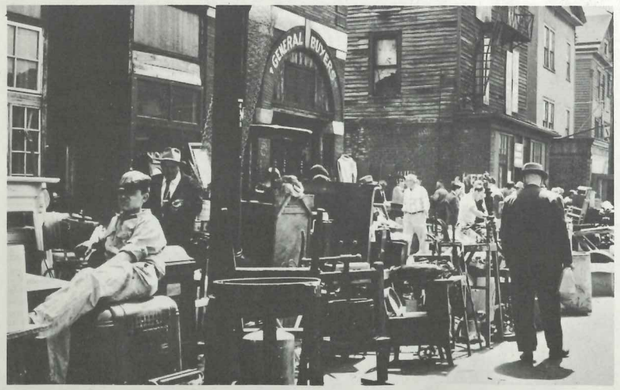
I asked the Lopezes what they thought was the difference between a quiet and a noisy street. Their immediate answer was that Cedar, the noisy street, was Puerto Rican and Negro while Daggett, the quiet street, was white. But then they decided that more important than the racial difference was the difference in buildings. They pointed out that Cedar has stores as well as houses and the stores are open till late at night. People cluster in front of them and other people come outside or look out their windows to see what's going on. By contrast, Daggett has only houses, mostly one family, and there is no place or reason for people to cluster and make noise.

The meeting with the Lopezes was very important for several reasons. First, the Lopezes made a profound observation about the city, made by very few planners -- namely, that streets with a mixture of uses are safer than streets with just one use, because the former are used for many different purposes and generate traffic and activity throughout the day. This is an important point, especially now when Urban Renewal is tearing down more and more areas of the city where houses are mixed with stores and replacing them with housing projects widely separated from shopping areas.

The Lopezes are not alone in preferring an apartment on a street like Cedar to an apartment in a park on the order of Florence Virtue. The other families I have met in the Hill feel the same way, yet the plan for part of the Hill released recently by the Redevelopment Agency shows an area of noisy streets like Cedar replaced by a high rise apartment, clusters of garden apartments, and two schools -- all arranged in a huge park -- and not a store in sight.

My meeting with the Lopezes was important also because I suddenly realized what Urban Renewal, as presently conceived, would mean to them. The house where they live is one of a row of neglected houses and stores not so different from the area of the Hill already declared a slum and designated for clearance. If the Lopezes were forced to move, they probably would not qualify for public housing because they are such a large family. They certainly would not qualify for moderate income co-operative housing, because Mrs. Lopez is on welfare. But even if they could move to a public housing project or a moderate-income housing project, would either of these be a substitute for the noisy, safe, interesting street they live on now and prefer? Chances are, the Lopezes would have to move to a building owned by another slum landlord in another poor area and run the risk of being chased out again by Urban Renewal.

The Lopezes represent a lot of people who are paying a large price for Urban Renewal in this country and whose voices and ideas have never been heard by the Redevelopment Agencies.



These before and after views of the Oak Street Renewal Project from the May issue of the Yale Alumni Magazine illustrate what some consider to be a "dramatic transformation" from a "blighted, decay-ridden" area into a "modern and growing urban center." We think they illustrate the destruction of an exciting, diverse, and lively street.

Fred Harris to run for state assemblyman / 106th district New Haven

A COMMUNITY-RUN COMMUNITY

If I am elected to the State Assembly, I want to make politics and politicans belong to the people again. This is my starting platform. I will change it and add to it as the campaign goes on, as the people tell me more of what is wrong. I will hold public hearings regularly when I am elected, and I will fight in the State Assembly and out for what the people need. We need representation for the poor people and the working people.

REDEVELOPMENT

Neighborhood redevelopment in New Haven has not helped the poor people. It has done only one thing: ruined neighborhoods. It has only moved slums from one area to another. Now redevelopment is planning to ruin the Hill too. It wants to tear down some perfectly good houses, and the things it will substitute will not help the people who need help. The Hill project must be stopped because:

1. We don't want to destroy the community that we have built here.
2. We don't want the Mayor and the Redevelopment Agency to tell us where or how to live.
3. We don't need any moderate-income housing. We need decent low-income housing.
4. We don't want a skyscraper in our neighborhood.
5. We don't need a huge park in the middle of our neighborhood. We need a small playground on every block.
6. We don't need a lot of parking--people can't live in parking lots.

EDUCATION

1. We reject bussing. Racial integration by itself is no help. We must make the schools we have good.
2. New school buildings alone are no answer to what's wrong with the education our children are getting.
3. We need Puerto Rican teachers and more black teachers.
4. Parents and teachers should be as important as principals in running our schools.
5. Teachers should be able to get all the paper, pencils, crayons, and other supplies our children need.
6. Teachers and the books they use should help our children be proud of themselves. Negroes should learn about their history and be proud of being black. Italians should learn how their people have helped build America. Puerto Ricans must learn about Puerto Rican history and about the work their people are doing now to make America a decent place to live.
7. The pre-school program must be expanded.

PLAYGROUNDS

1. We want a playground on every block so our kids don't have to play in the streets.
2. There should be benches for people who like to watch, especially old people.
3. The playgrounds should be cleaned up and repaired every week. Hire and train neighborhood people to do that.

WELFARE

The state should give people who need help enough money to live decently, and it should make it as easy as possible for those who are able to get off welfare. Welfare people now get 20¢ a meal, and that's nowhere near enough.
1. Payments must be increased immediately to meet the cost of living, especially for mothers with children and for the elderly. People should get enough money to be able to figure out their own budgets and to get things like haircuts for their children.
2. Needing welfare is not a crime. Snoopy investigations and midnight raids must be stopped. As proposed in New York, people's word should be taken as proof of their need.
3. Neighborhood welfare boards should control the welfare system in their own areas.
4. Puerto Rican workers and more black workers must be hired.

Fred Harris discusses the problems of the community with a Puerto Rican family in his district. "Redevelopment must be stopped before it destroys our community."

5. It is very hard to get off the state once you are on it. To make it easier, people who must go on should not be forced to sell all their property, and welfare people should get first priority for city and state jobs.
6. City welfare should be combined with state.
7. Ideally, there should be a minimum annual wage guaranteed to everyone. This would take national, not just state, action.
8. We support welfare caseworkers' demands for lower caseloads, better pay, and better working conditions.

JOBS

No jobs or jobs that don't pay enough are a big problem for people in our area.

1. Independent neighborhood organizations should get money to hire and train unemployed people to fix up their own houses, parks, and playgrounds.
2. Discrimination against Negroes and Puerto Ricans on jobs and in unions must stop immediately, especially in union apprentice training.
3. CPI must train people for jobs that they can really get and that earn decent pay.

CPI

The federal war against poverty is a bad joke. A real war against poverty would need much more money, maybe some of the billions being spent in the war on the Vietnamese people. More important, the money must be controlled by the people and not by the city if it is to do any good.

1. Independent organizations should be able to get money from the federal government without getting the ok from Community Progress, Inc.
2. People hired by CPI should not have to stop speaking out on neighborhood problems. The "war against poverty" is not supposed to be a part of the Democratic machine.
3. CPI should stop trying to block the work for a decent city that groups like the Hill Parents Association are doing.

SLUMS

1. Slumlords are criminals, according to the law. The city housing code should be enforced and landlords who allow bad buildings should be fined and put in jail, as the law says.
2. Connecticut should pass a rent control law. Redevelopment has made housing very hard to find, and landlords are raising rents to ridiculous figures because we have nowhere else to go.
3. State welfare should stop paying outrageous rents to slumlords.
4. Unemployed people should be hired and trained to fix up the houses in their own neighborhoods.

POLICE

The "friendly neighborhood cop" doesn't exist any more. The police and the people don't trust each other. We don't get police protection when we need it, and too often when the police do come they are brutal because they don't understand the people.

1. Negro neighborhoods should have mostly Negro police, Italian areas mostly Italian police, Puerto Rican areas mostly Puerto Rican police, and ethnically mixed areas should have mixed police.
2. Neighborhoods should have their own police forces, with police hired from the people of the areas and trained by police who understand those areas.

THE WAR

America is spending millions of dollars in a far-off and unnecessary war in Viet-Nam. That money should be given to the people in neighborhoods like ours to help us solve the problems of education, housing, playgrounds, and all the other things that are falling apart around us. Our young men, the young men of poor people and especially of black people and Puerto Ricans, are being drafted to fight in Viet-Nam when the real fight is for justice at home.

"why I am running"

FRED HARRIS
For State Assembly
156 Washington Ave.
865-6666

The Fred Harris for State Assembly campaign is a people's campaign. I am a poor man, a working man, with a family to support and only a high school education. I am an average man, like my neighbors in the 106th Assembly District. I am running for the State Assembly as an independent because I feel the Democrats and the Republicans have let the people down. It is time for us to stand up and fight for ourselves and for our families.

Like most parents, my wife and I want most of all to have a decent neighborhood, a decent city, a decent country for our children to grow up in. "Politician" has always been a dirty word to me. And now I am trying, with the help of all of you, to be a politician. Why?

POLITICIANS ARE PUBLIC SERVANTS

The politicians who supposedly represent us in the city and state and national governments have proved that all they're after is power and money and a big name for themselves. They've forgotten the public. Politicians are supposed to be "public servants." They think that we the people are their servants instead.

We need representation. All of us need it: Negroes, Italians, Puerto Ricans, Irish, Portugese, everybody. Redevelopment is bulldozing our neighborhoods, ruining the homes of people who have good homes and building nothing decent for those who live in slums. Schools don't teach our kids how to live life decently and happily. Welfare is too hard to get on when we do need help and too hard to get off when we're able to work again. We don't trust the police and they don't trust us. Our neighborhoods are falling apart all around us. And these things hurt all of us. They hurt the very poor because they have no chance to improve themselves. They hurt the working man because all the sweat he has put into making a decent place for his family is wasted. They hurt even the well-to-do, because no one can be happy or safe in a city that's ruining the lives of so many of its people. And no matter how much money the Democrats spend here, life is going to be no better or cleaner or happier.

I'M RUNNING TO WIN

I don't want to be part of a political party which is run from downtown. My campaign is going to be run by the people in my district. The things I say will be the things the people in my district never get a chance to say. My campaign will be an action campaign. Its work will be in the streets. Its job will be to get all kinds of people to stand up and speak for themselves, and to elect a candidate who will listen to them speak and do what they say even after he is elected. I'm running to win, and to represent the people of our district. If all of you vote for me and work with me, we will win, and we will have another important place for the voice of the people to speak. If we lose, all of us must go on working. Sooner or later we will win, or our city and our country are dead.

My name is Fred L. Harris, Jr. I was born in New Haven on September 27, 1937, the son of Fred and Mildred Harris. I attended Hillhouse High and then spent three years in the entertainment world with rock 'n' roll groups traveling around the country. Later I attended L.A. Trade Tech. Jr. College in Los Angeles, California for one year. I then returned to New Haven.

I have been married 8 years. My wife Rose and I have four children, Rhonda 7, Madeira 6, Vannessa 5, and Fred III, 14 months. I have spent quite a bit of time working in factories as a machine operator. I am chairman of the Hill Parents Association, which was formed out of a group which forced the school board at Prince School to make desperately needed improvements. This group then combined with the Hill Neighborhood Union into a single group calling itself the Hill Parents Association. This group has been serving the community trying to improve conditions in the area.

WELFARE · WHO NEEDS IT?

John Sinisi

Maybe you are a worker, and you think people on welfare are deadbeats. Maybe you are a Democrat, and you think that welfare is a great blessing for the poor. Or maybe you are on welfare, and you know better. So let's get some facts straight about what welfare is all about.

There are two kinds of welfare -- city welfare and state welfare.

Anyone can receive City Welfare. Anyone, that is, who doesn't have a dollar to his name, owns no property, doesn't have a job, and is a good bet to starve in the streets. City Welfare is temporary, emergency aid. It keeps people from starving or freezing to death and that's about it. It keeps you alive, but prevents you from living.

State Welfare is not much better. Women-without-husbands, their children, old people over sixty-five, the blind, and the totally disabled are the only people who receive State Welfare. Obviously very few of these people are able to work for their income. In any case they must register at the State Employment Agency and accept any job that is offered them. A family with small children needs a mother to watch the kids and a father to earn the family's bread. If the father dies or deserts, the only way to keep the family together is for the community to support it. Such families have no choice but to go on State Welfare.

So the first point is that the people on Welfare are not dead-beats. They are people who through no fault of their own cannot support themselves. People should not be punished for being old or blind or not having a father's support. It is the duty of the community to give them enough money to live decently. According to the United States Department of Labor that means $6000 a year for a family of four.

But in our so-called civilized, so-called welfare state, such is not the case. A family of four on welfare gets about $3200 a year. That covers food, rent, heat and light, clothing and a few household items. It covers them that is if you can eat on a dollar a day, like to live in a slum, and can heat your house for $20.37 a month in the winter. No money is provided for movies. That's a luxury. Nor for a radio or a television set. If people on welfare want them they can pay for them out of their dollar a day for food. Nor for a telephone.

If a kid gets a job, Welfare does not allow him to keep what he earns for spending money or to save it for a college education. Nor can he use the money to help out his family. What he earns is subtracted from the welfare payments his family receives. So the family's income remains the same. So why should the kid work. All he gets out of the job is the exercise.

If a family needs a new bed or stove, welfare will pay about $75 for a second-hand one. But first they send someone to snoop around the apartment. The investigator then decides in his bureaucratic wisdom whether or not you need the bed.

Unlike people on Unemployment Compensation, people on welfare must get rid of any property they may have in excess of $450. Together with the rule that they can't keep money they earn from their part-time jobs, the no property rule makes sure that once a person goes on welfare he never comes off.

People on welfare are subjected to humiliating interviews, searches, and investigations. The theory is that by getting welfare money, people give up their right to privacy. They are made to feel like bums. They are treated like fools. Every decision in their life must be made by the Welfare Department. The welfare case workers are often outsiders who don't understand the people they are supposed to work with.

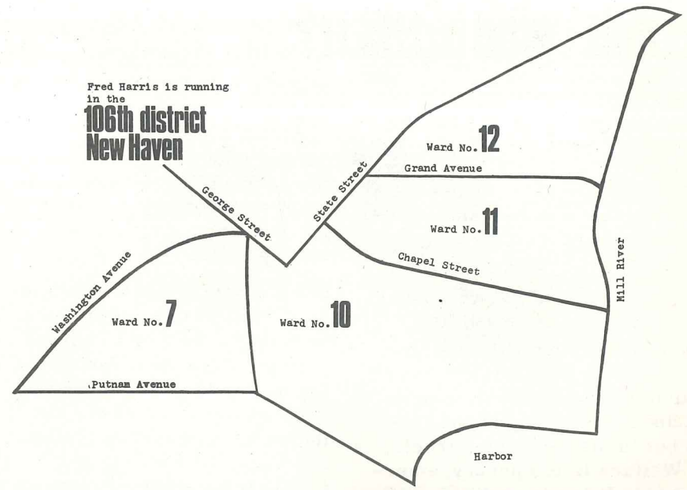
Now what should be done about the situation. We feel that everyone in the country should be guaranteed a decent income--that is $6000 a year for a family of four and more for bigger families. This income has to be guaranteed as an absolute right, otherwise the government will use it as blackmail to tell people how to live. We can't promise you this guaranteed income. Even if Fred Harris and Bob Cook are elected they won't have the power to bring about a guaranteed income. But that's our goal. And all our smaller proposals are designed to create a welfare system as close to that goal as possible. And when we get enough people like Fred Harris elected then we will pass the bill for a guaranteed income.

In the meantime welfare payments should be raised to reflect the true cost of living. All items of expense, such as entertainment, telephone, and haircuts, should be provided for in the budget. The welfare social work service should be separated from the money payments. When people have enough money, they can manage their own lives. State Welfare, City Welfare and Unemployment Compensation should be merged into a single agency of Unemployment and Dependency Compensation.

Investigations of eligibility and fraud should end. This practice is degrading and humiliating. It is also a waste of time and money. The state spends one dollar out of five in its welfare budget looking for fraud, which it rarely finds.

Finally a Board for Neighborhood Welfare should be established in each ward of the city. Application for welfare funds would be made to the Neighborhood Boards. These Boards would be elected by the people of the area. They would know the people in the area. They would have the power to spend emergency funds at any time for anyone in their area in need. They would be responsible for an on-going program of neighborhood improvement (beautification, clean-up, building repairs, playground construction, publication of community newspaper, etc.). These would be programs that would not be done by any other group. They would hire the neighborhood's unemployed to do this work at decent pay rates. These people would thus be able to eventually come off welfare. Neighborhoods would be improved. A sense of community would develop among the people. People on welfare would no longer feel humiliated. No longer feel like useless wards of an impersonal state. They would fee like a real part of a real community.

As you've no doubt been told many times before, it takes money to run a political campaign. Fred Harris' campaign for State Assembly is no exception. We need funds to pay for office space, printing costs, supplies, and full time organizers. Right now in the early stages of the campaign we need all the support we can get. We are determined to raise enough money to bring the campaign into the homes of everyone in the 106th district. Any help you can give us would be greatly appreciated. Please make checks payable to Harris for State Assembly, 156 Washington Ave.



Belafonte gives benefit concert!

PLACE: New Haven Arena
TIME: Sunday, September 25, 8:00 P.M.
TICKETS: $2, $3, $4, $5
ON SALE: Arena Box Office
Cook for Congress Office
241 Orange Street
Harris for State Assembly
156 Washington Avenue
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Hill Parents Association
200 SPECIAL $50 PATRON TICKETS:
Best seats in the house
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Harry Belafonte
after the concert

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Independent Political Action Committee
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New Haven
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STOP BULLETS WITH BALLOTS!